

Of Tennessee adults surveyed, 2.9% assessed their chances of getting AIDS as high - 3.1% of males surveyed and 2.7% of females surveyed. The youngest age-group, those 18 to 24 years of age, were most likely to perceive high risk - 4.3% compared to 3.3% of 25 to 34 year-olds, 2.6% of 35 to 44 year-olds, and 2.9% of 45 to 54 year-olds. Only 1.1% of the oldest age-group surveyed -- 55 to 64 year-olds -- reported their risk as high. Blacks were almost twice as likely as whites to report high risk (4.6% versus 2.7%, respectively).

Approximately 90,000 adults in Tennessee would rate their perceived AIDS risk as high, based on assumptions about the generalizability of these survey estimates. These include 47,000 males, 43,000 females, 69,000 whites and 21,000 blacks. By age-group, the numbers of high risk adults would be 22,000 adults ages 18 to 24; 26,000 adults ages 25 to 34; 20,500 adults ages 35 to 44; 16,500 adults ages 45-54; and 5,000 adults ages 55 to 64.

Among the 18-24 year age-group, 6.4% of males assessed their risk as high compared to 2.1% of females. In contrast, 4.0% of females in the 45 to 54 year age-group reported perceiving themselves at high risk for AIDS as compared to 1.6% of males in this age-group.

Adults with lower levels of education (less than high school graduation/GED) were more likely than adults with higher levels of education (high school graduate/GED or above) to report a high risk of HIV infection (4.3% versus 2.5%, respectively)⁴⁸. Only 0.5% of college graduates reported a high risk of HIV infection.

Income was inversely related to perceived high AIDS risk. The poorest group (under \$15,000) was most likely to perceive high AIDS risk (3.5%), followed by those earning \$15,000-24,999 (2.9%); \$25,000-49,000 (2.5%); and \$50,000 or more (0.8%)⁴⁹.

(2) "In the past year, have your chances of getting the AIDS virus increased, decreased, or stayed the same?"

The data for this question are based on the adults surveyed who reported that they do not have the AIDS virus (n=2,429). Only one adult surveyed reported having the AIDS virus.

The majority of Tennessee adults surveyed (81.2%) felt that their chances of getting AIDS had remained the same; 8.9% said they felt their chances had decreased; and 7.4% said they felt their chances had increased. Males were somewhat more likely to report increased chances of getting AIDS than females (8.3% and 6.6%, respectively). Blacks were twice as likely as whites (11.8% to 6.3%, respectively), to feel an increased

⁴⁸ Figures were calculated using unweighted data.

⁴⁹ See footnote 48.